Upgradation of National Highways

1017. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to improve and upgrade existing National Highways in the country to make them all weather proof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The development and improvement of National Highways is a continuous process and the improvement projects are taken up based on the design and guidelines for National Highways to make the roads all weather proof. The design principles and guidelines are so framed to provide (i) the road section at least one meter above the highest flood level/water table, (ii) adequate surface and sub-surface drainage measures including camber on the top of the pavement and (iii) bituminous or concrete pavements as top layer.

Works on East-Coast Road

1018. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of works undertaken stretch-wise under east-coast road and the progress made stage-by-stage on such works and the time-frame fixed for completion of pending works;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many places the quality of execution is not upto the mark warranting repairs and patch-work within few weeks of execution;

(c) whether it is a fact that many stretches even on completion are yet to be declared as National Highways; and

(d) if so, by when it would be done in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for developemnt and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The east coast road mainly consists of the roads within the purview of the State Government except the reach from Pondicherry to Nagapattinam i.e. NH-45A, Ramnad to Devipattinam i.e. NH-210 and small stretches of